

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs 0004 and 0028 as follows:

[0004] The current techniques attempt to combine a satisfactory user's comfort, warmth, ~~heat~~, imperviousness, flexibility, absence of hard spots in the liner, light plantar sensations, with a rigidity of the footwear which satisfactorily responds to the mechanical stresses, forces exerted on the binding, on the board, and to the biomechanical stresses, optimum transmission of the forces from the snowboarder to the board.

[0028] Comfort properties include the following: the footwear and liner can be made lighter; the front portion of the boot can be flexible; the cover protects the integrity of the lacing system and can protect from the cold, frost, rain, etc. A certain lateral flexibility in ~~at the level of the~~ ankle zone can be preserved. The device can be adapted to the size and/or to the volume of the shoe by mounting movable arms. The simplicity of the device makes it very easy to use and highly reliable.

Please add new paragraph 0030.1 immediately following current paragraph 0030 as follows:

[0030.1] With reference to FIGS. 2 and 3, for example, the cover 1 can be said to include three parts, namely, an upper part, an intermediate part, and a lower part. The upper part covers an upper front zone of the upper of the shoe 10, also referred to above as the tibial support zone 20 of the upper. The intermediate part of the cover 1 covers the flexion fold zone 21 of the upper. The lower part of the cover 1 extends forwardly from the flexion fold zone through the front end zone 22 of the upper. Further, in the embodiments shown in the drawings, the cover 1 includes a single piece of material along its length.